

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in view of the above-referenced Office Action, and reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 25, 2008, Applicant wishes to enter the following remarks for the Examiner's consideration. No new matter has been added by amendment in this response.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102, 103 and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-5, 8-9, 12, and 14-17, and 19-23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited Chan (U.S. 5,434,740), hereinafter the Chan reference. Claims 6-7 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the newly cited combination of Chan in view of Knapp, Jr. et al. (US Patent 4,616,207).

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 10, 11 and 18 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended these claims to be in independent form and thus they each include the recitations of claim 8, from which they depended. The subject matter of claims 7, 9, 12, and 14-17 is contained in claims that depend from allowable claims 10, 11, and 18, respectively. It is noted that the recitations of claims 3-6 are similar to claims 14-17; thus, claims 3-6 were amended to depend from independent claim 10 while claims 14-17 were amended to depend from independent claim 11. Amendments were made to claims 3-6 to comply with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as they now depend from claim 10. Claims 16-17 were amended to correct certain 35 USC 112, second paragraph, issues. New claims 28-31 contain recitations similar to claims 3-6 and 14-17 and these were added to depend from independent claim 18. New claims 25-27 and 32-34 contain recitations similar to claims 7, 9, and 12, respectively, and depend from claims 11 and 18, respectively.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 13, and 19-24 are canceled.

These amendments to the claims were briefly discussed with Examiner Bui, who indicated he would review this response and call undersigned with any questions or if an examiner's amendment is thought to be needed to place the application in condition for allowance. The examiner's continued diligence is appreciated.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance for these claims be mailed at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Although additional arguments could be made for the patentability of each of the claims, such arguments are believed unnecessary in view of the above discussion. The undersigned wishes to make it clear that not making such arguments at this time should not be construed as a concession or admission to any statement in the Office Action.

All claims are believed to be in allowable condition and such allowance is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. The Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions about this application or response.

Respectfully submitted,

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